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MEXICO.

Sanitary regulations in Mexico.

WASHINGTON, April 12, 1897.

SIR: By direction of the Secretary of State, I have the honor to inclose herewith, for the information of the Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service, copy of an extract from the message of President Diaz, sent to the Congress of Mexico on the 1st instant, in regard to sanitary precautions taken by that Republic.

Respectfully, yours,

W. W. ROCKHILL,
Assistant Secretary of State.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Inclosure.—Extract from message of President Diaz to the Mexican Congress, April 1, 1897.]

Measures taken to prevent disease.

Owing to the alarm occasioned by the occurrence at Culiacan, Manzanillo, and Acapulco, of some cases of a disease which it was feared was yellow fever, a delegate of the board of health was instructed to make a study of this disease. His report was that it was nothing but an aggravated form of malaria. A similar report was made by another delegate of the board of health, and by a physician of this capital, with respect to a disease which appeared later on at Chilpancingo, and which was also suspected to be yellow fever.

It is gratifying to inform Congress that since the date of my last message not a single case of yellow fever has occurred in any part of the Republic.

The Executive has taken all the necessary measures to protect the capital from an invasion of smallpox, which, unfortunately, has prevailed in an epidemic form for some months past in the neighborhood of Puebla and Tlaxcala. With this end in view, special pains were taken to administer vaccination to all the inhabitants of the federal district. The soldiers composing the garrison were all ordered to be vaccinated, and foreign residents were urged to be vaccinated or revaccinated without loss of time.

In the period of twenty-four years and seven months comprised between the 1st of June, 1872, and December 31, 1896, vaccination has been administered in the offices of the board of health at this capital to 376,050 persons. As a proof of the beneficial effects of this preventive, I may state that the mortality in this city from smallpox last year amounted only to 76 persons, chiefly adults, and most of them foreigners who had neglected to be vaccinated.

Notwithstanding that British India is far removed from this country and that there are no direct relations between the countries, the Executive has taken care to keep informed as to the progress of the bubonic plague there, in order, if necessary, to take steps to prevent the remote chance of the disease spreading to this country.

On previous occasions I have informed the Chamber of the part taken by members of the board of health and by Mexican physicians in general in the labors of the American Association of Public Health. In the month of September last the annual sessions of the association in question were held in the city of Buffalo, N. Y., and Mexico was represented by 23 physicians, one of whom, the president of the board of health, was honored with the distinction of presiding at the sessions.

It is a pleasure to me to inform you that work has been commenced on the sanitation of the capital. The first large receptacle for the discharge of the proposed sewerage system is already under construction and work is soon to be undertaken on the erection of the pumps for flushing the sewers.

STATISTICAL REPORTS.

AUSTRALIA—*Brisbane*.—Month of January, 1897. Estimated population, 56,075. Total deaths, 71, including phthisis pulmonalis, 10; enteric fever, 2; diphtheria, 1, and whooping cough, 1.

BERMUDA.—Two weeks ended April 2, 1897. Estimated population, 15,013. Total deaths, 3. No deaths from contagious diseases.